duction in the country has been adversely affected due to power shortage during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to provide adequate power to the cement manufacturing units to boost the production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). Some cement plants have reported difficulties in optimising cement production on account of power shortage during the current financial year. The impact on the cement production on this account, however, has been marginal, as a large number of cement plants have installed captive power plants to meet a part of their power requirements. Cement production till November, 1991 has been 34.5 million tonnes against the pro-rata target of 36.67 million tonnes.

Central Investment in Tamil Nadu

3392. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the Central investment in the Industrial sector in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to increase the central investment on new central public sector enterprises in the State of Tamil Nadu during the remaining period of the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Investments in the central public sector enterprises are made on techno-economic considerations keeping in view the balanced regional development of the country.

Modernisation and Expansion of P.S.Us. in Tamil Nadu

3393. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to modernise and expand the Central Public Undertakings in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Quarters for Government Employees in Almora and Pithoragarh Distt. of U.P.

3394. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the construction of the quarters for the Central Government Employees in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh in the current year; and

(b) the number of quarters of various categories available for the employees working in Ranikheth and Almora?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No allocation has been made for construction of general pool quarters during the current year in these districts.

(b) Nil in general pool.

Declaration of Almora and Pithoragarh Districts as no-industry Districts

3395. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare Almora and Pithoragarh districts as 'no-industry-districts' in view of the scarcity of industry there; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). Almora and Pithoragarh Districts are already included in Category 'A' of Centrally declared Industrially backward areas.

Price of Wheat

3396. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the hoarding of wheat by the farmers in States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh etc., the prices of wheat have gone up drastically in the open market;

(b) if so, how does the wheat price in the open market compare with the rates in the preceding three years;

(c) how does the Government propose to deal with the situation to bring down the price of wheat prevailing in the open market in the later half of 1991;

(d) whether there is any proposal to import wheat to bring down the prices, and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) and (b). A statement indicating the index numbers of wholesale prices of wheat during the years 1988 to 1991 is attached (Annexure).

(c) The following steps have been taken by Government to check the rise in prices of wheat:-

(i) Allocations of wheat from Central Pool have been increased for Punjab and Haryana from October, 1991 so that the pressure on open market is reduced.

(ii) Food Corporation of India has been authorised to sell in the open market 3 lakh tonnes of wheat during October - November,1991. A further quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of wheat has also been authorised for sale in December, 1991.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The present stocks of wheat are considered to be sufficient to meet the reasonable requirements of the Public Distribution System.